

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01667 181310Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 MCT-01 PA-01 PRS-01  
USIA-06 /074 W  
-----190311Z 108271 /20

R 181206Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9947  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: EAIR YO XX  
SUBJ: TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISTANBUL AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
SECURITY

REF: 76 STATE 212490

1. IN OUR OPINION, SECURITY AT BELGRADE AND ZAGREB AIRPORTS  
IS PROBABLY ADEQUATE. ONCE PASSENGERS ARE THROUGH THE  
ELECTRONIC SCREENING AND MANUAL SEARCH BOOTHS AT BELGRADE  
AIRPORT, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED BACK AND THERE IS NO OTHER  
APPROACH TO THE TRANSIT AREA OTHER THAN THROUGH THE BOOTHS.  
AT ZAGREB, ACCESS TO THE TRANSIT AREA IS CONTROLLED BY  
ISSUANCE OF BOARDING PASSES. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT AN  
ALIGHTING PASSENGER IS NOT ALWAYS REQUIRED TO SHOW A TICKET  
FOR A CONNECTING FLIGHT--THUS MAKING IT THEORETICALLY  
POSSIBLE FOR AN ALIGHTING PASSENGER TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE  
TRANSIT AREA. THIS AREA SEEMS SECURE FROM PENETRATION FROM  
THE OUTSIDE, HOWEVER.

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2. IN GENERAL, YUGOSLAVIA IS A VERY SECURITY-CONSCIOUS NATION.  
PROCEDURES MAY BE DESIGNED TO BE FOOLPROOF, BUT SINCE THEY  
ARE ADMINISTERED BY HUMAN BEINGS THEY PROBABLY CAN BE CIRCUM-  
VENTED. IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT YUGOSLAV AIRPORT SECURITY  
SYSTEMS AT MAJOR AIRPORTS DO NOT APPEAR TO SHOW CONSISTENT  
HOLES WHICH WOULD TEMPT A TERRORIST. HOWEVER, THE STRICT

ADMINISTRATION OF STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE HERE, AND LAPSES OCCUR. THE POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS OF INATTENTION OR SUBORNING OF OFFICIALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FIRST CASE IS UNPREDICTABLE AND THE SECOND WOULD VITIATE THE BEST OF SECURITY SYSTEMS.

3. WHILE WE WOULD TEND TO RELY ON THE YUGOSLAV SECURITY SYSTEM, LAPSES CAN OCCUR. HOWEVER, ANY WOULD-BE TERRORIST PLANNING ANTI-YUGOSLAV HAVOC AT A MAJOR YUGOSLAV AIRPORT HAD BETTER BE PREPARED FOR A SUICIDE MISSION, SINCE THE CHANCES OF ESCAPING WOULD BE INFINITESIMAL.

4. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO COOPERATE WITH ANY INVESTIGATION OF AIRPORT SECURITY WHICH MIGHT BE RUN UNOBTRUSIVELY BY U.S. SECURITY SPECIALISTS, BUT DO NOT FEEL OURSELVES COMPETENT TO MAKE FINAL OR DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS ON YUGOSLAV SECURITY SYSTEMS.

5. PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE SEVERAL SMALLER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN YUGOSLAVIA (DUBROVNIK, MARIBOR, LJUBLJANA) WITH WHICH EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE NOT FAMILIAR AND WHICH COULD EASILY HARBOR SECURITY LOOPHOLES.  
YORK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 STATE 212490  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3071356  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISTANBUL AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY  
**TAGS:** EAIR, YO, XX  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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